

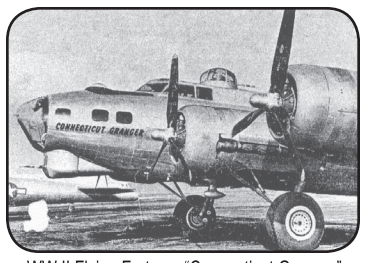


HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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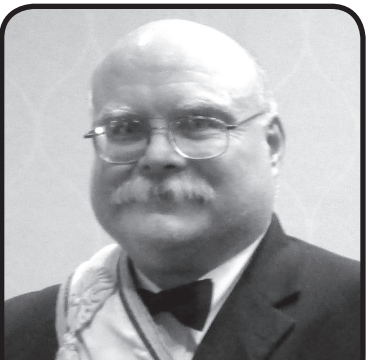
WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 57, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2017

State Master



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

"We are here, we are here. We are HEEEREERRR!" come the shouts of Whooville. This is from the Doctor Seuss classic "Horton hears a Who." Those little people living on a clover bloom are heard by Horton and no one else until their voices are united and shouted proudly and loudly until everyone could hear them to believe in their very being. We as Grangers tend to be in the same spot we are few in numbers but we need to shout out to all that "We are here." Some of our Granges have found the thing that makes them leaders of the community, which I congratulate, but others need to find that spark that will let the community know that you are there, willing and able to help and serve. Let us work together and shout out loud so that we all can be heard.

The National Grange is offering new things in the next year. A new magazine "Good Day" is coming. It will have stories and articles about Granges nationwide. They are looking for recipes, and pictures of Grange Halls. Check it out and subscribe now. They also have a radio station on the web. Brother Bob Charbonneau has a slot on Thursday evening, check it out and see what is happening on the National level.

The State Masters' Conference is coming to Connecticut. All State Masters have been invited to Ekonk Community Grange for the State Masters' Conference to be held February 17-19, 2017.

I thank the members of Ekonk Community Grange who welcomed us to their hall and will provide food and fellowship at this event.

I attended the Dairy Summit January 3 at the Legislative Office Building at the Capitol. The event was sponsored by the Farm Bureau, which had information about the future of the Connecticut dairy industry. Speakers from UConn, USDA, Farm Credit, and Agrimark spoke about the future trends and expectations of the future of dairy farms in Connecticut. While we are in the Fluid I market, our farmers are paid by the Fluid III market which follows the Cheese Market prices. Connecticut farmers produced 2.8 million pounds of milk products but only represent 1.8% of the total amount of the Northeast Region. Exports are the friend of the dairy farmers worldwide so we must move with caution on new trade deals so that our farmers are not blocked out from a chance for increased shares. They had a roundtable on the next generation of dairy farmers to talk about their operations and fears for the future. Many talked about diversifying the farms products by expanding local items. One farm seeks to expand to 3,000 cows under one roof in Ellington. The future may look brighter for our dairy farmers but we must keep a close eye because the balance is shaky and one bad move could alter the future of these farms.

This year we have had a difficult job trying to find Deputies for the State Grange, not everyone can be a Deputy. They need to be knowledgeable in Grange Ritual, willing to travel and be the eyes and ears of the State Master. If I overlooked you and you are willing, please let me know. If we can fill these positions we may have to have a new

inspection program, which may include self inspections, State officers reviewing Granges. I hope to have this solved by inspection time.

New changes are coming to our country with a new President, new Congress, we will see if they all uphold

the Constitution that they all hold onto as tight as the Bible and remember that "We the People" are watching and taking notes for the cries "We are here, We are here, We are Heeree" will be ever in their heads if they mess it up.

May you all find the true love and celebrate it on Valentine's Day, and remember chocolates fall under Fluid III dairy products and support our local farmers.

National President on TPP

National Grange President Betsy E. Huber on Monday made the following statement after the announcement of President Trump's first executive action, to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement:

With the Grange's primary interest in agriculture, food production and the marketing of American products to all available markets, we understand the potential value of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) to the American producer and our rural economy. The

Grange also represents the interests of residents of rural areas and small communities, who produce other products and may not expect to fare as well in the TPP agreement as it was proposed. Therefore, the National Grange supports the President's decision to withdraw from TPP and to begin negotiations with each individual country in the pact. Further, we urge the President to insist that all future trade deals require imported items to meet the same strict standards to which U.S.-produced goods are held.

New Ag Secretary welcomed

On Thursday, January 19, 2017, National Grange President Betsy Huber commented on the announcement made by the Trump administration that former Georgia Gov. Sonny Purdue has been tapped to be the next Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – "It is a pleasure to welcome Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia to Washington D.C. as the incoming Secretary of Agriculture.

"The National Grange, America's oldest

general farm and rural public interest organization, is largely credited with the successful push to make the highest-ranking U.S. official for Agriculture a cabinet-level position in the late 1800s. We are pleased to see the respect the incoming administration and transition team has given the seat, which greatly impacts many aspects of rural life.

"Mr. Perdue is certainly well qualified to

...More on page 2

Needlework contest update



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

The information for our needlework contests are found in the pink brochures which have been distributed to each Grange. Please feel free to make as many copies as you need for entries. It is very important to use the official entry blanks when submitting your item. Grange membership is not required to enter our contests, so please ask your friends, co-workers and relatives. Regarding questions on Class D. -3-Piece Baby Set: the set is to consist of 3 items: jacket, bonnet, pants, booties or mittens. It does not include an afghan. The baby afghan is Class K., a separate category. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

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NEXT ISSUE ... MARCH

Inside...

What do the Johnny Carson, Don Rickles and the Grange have in common?

...The answer is on page 2

A part of the National Grange
American Values, Hometown Roots

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!

“Tonight Show” remark about Grange cut deep



A screenshot of Don Rickles and Johnny Carson during the September 1, 1977 episode of “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.”

(Video image from YouTube)



The actual outfit that caused Carson to ask Rickles, “Are you going to a Grange meeting or what?”

(Video image from YouTube)

Todd Gelineau, Editor

On September 1, 1977, Don Rickles made one of his many appearances on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Instead of wearing a coat and tie, he wore a blue leisure jacket with the logo of his TV series of the time, “CPO Sharkey.” Upon seeing Rickles, Johnny remarked, “Are you going to a Grange meeting or what? This is a high class show, not some...” He didn’t finish the sentence as Rickles went off on one of his many tangents which began with, “Forgive me, forgive me... we come from the same school and dress meticulously.”

While sorting through the papers of Betty Jane Gardiner, Noel Miller and Irene Percoski discovered a letter written by her to Johnny Carson expressing her concern over his reference to the Grange in that show.

“Dear Johnny, I have never before written to a celebrity – but really feel that as secretary of our local Grange I must write this and ‘take you to task.’

The other evening my husband and I returned from a Grange meeting and sat down, as we often do, to enjoy the TONIGHT SHOW. Don Rickles arrived, and because of his attire you made a comment about his being dressed for a ‘Grange meeting.’ It hurt!!!! The Grange today is a progressive organization with a strong program of service to the community, an outstanding record of charity activity, financial aid to education through scholarships, conservation and ecology projects, insurance plans, recreation and leadership training, and a strong emphasis on family and country. We speak out in a loud voice in the legislatures of our states in our nation’s capital (where incidentally we have a beautiful National Grange building). Of course we have our fun and informal moments, but we are very proud of the things we stand for, our long years of service, and the many good things we continue to accomplish. It is very disappointing to hear a comment on national television (even in jest) that casts a bad

reflection and gives a false impression of a fine organization and its many thousands of members of all ages across our land.

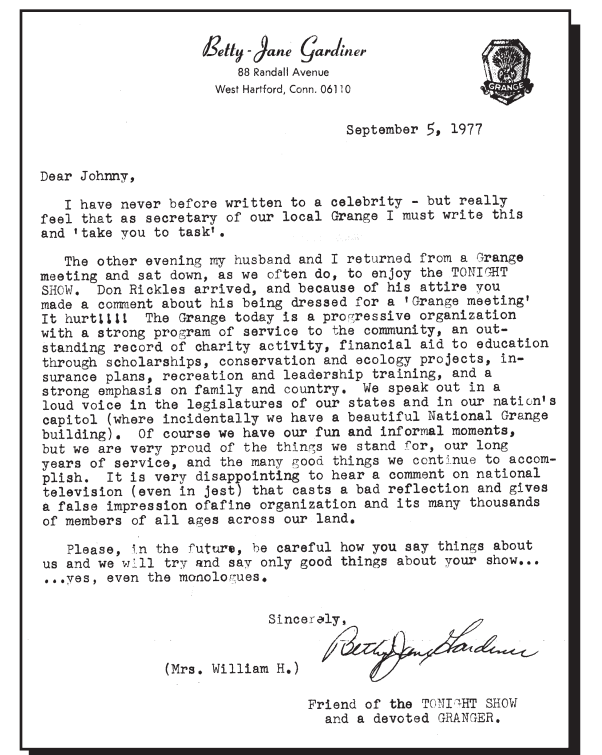
Please, in the future, be careful how you say things about us and we will try and say only good things about your show... yes, even the monologues.

Sincerely,

Betty Jane Gardiner (Mrs. William H.)
Friend of the TONIGHT SHOW and a devoted GRANGER.”

After doing some research I was able to find a YouTube video of the complete episode. Rickles appears around the 28 minute mark. The video may be found by searching “Johnny Carson Don Rickles 1977 09 01”.

While she never received a reply, it is a fun remembrance of her and interesting how the Grange was (and is) so mainstream that even Johnny Carson could make a passing joke about us.



A copy of Betty Jane’s letter to Carson.

Agriculture Secretary welcomed

Continued from pg. 1

head up the United States Department of Agriculture, from his roots growing up on a rural crop and dairy farm to his education as a veterinarian and ownership of small agribusinesses, Purdue has a personal perspective of agriculture and rural matters. The Governor understands the plight of agriculture, the challenges facing rural America, and the business acumen required to oversee our nation’s massive food and agriculture policy system. We look forward to working with future Secretary Purdue on agriculture, food, land, water, rural healthcare, rural broadband, conservation and other issues affecting rural and small town America.”

Secretary designee lauded by agriculture community



by Lynne Hayes, Growing America

There have been 30 Secretaries of Agriculture since 1889 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was founded, and though some were raised on a farm, only two actually lived and worked in agriculture as adults. If confirmed, Sonny Perdue will be number three.

Purdue, President-elect Donald Trump’s pick for Ag Secretary, grew up on a farm in Perry, a small town in Central Georgia. He served in the Air Force, earned a veterinary degree and worked briefly as a veterinarian before turning back to

agricultural endeavors. He has been involved in several agribusinesses in his career, from grain to eggs, fertilizer and exports.

Purdue’s passion for agriculture led him to politics and ultimately to the position of governor of Georgia. He served two terms in office (2003 to 2011)—the first Republican governor in 130 years—and during that time, Purdue succeeded in returning agriculture to the centerpiece of the Georgia economy.

Though Purdue has been out of the political limelight for several years, the mention of his name among Georgia ag people and politicians who’ve known and worked with him brings forth nothing but praise and admiration.

Zippy Duvall, the newly elected president of American Farm Bureau Federation, partnered with Purdue on numerous agricultural issues throughout Purdue’s time as governor and recalls that

he “always had an open door for farmers.”

Chad Etheridge, CEO of Growing America, also credits Purdue with giving agricultural a tremendous boost in the state.

“Mr. Purdue expanded the Center for Agricultural Innovation in Georgia and placed Donnie Smith at the helm...another farmer. That injected new life into every ag sector here...nurturing an environment in Georgia that allowed our publication Growing America, to grow into a successful agriculture focused business, even during the hard economic times the rest of the country was facing.”

Purdue will have his hands full as the new Ag Secretary. He will be dealing with the creation of the 2018 Farm Bill, and working on issues ranging from H2A to water rights.

Bryan Tolar, president of Georgia Agri-Business Council, the state’s leading agricultural advocacy organization says there’s no

doubt that Sonny will “hit the ground running and be ready to attend to the issues and interests of rural America. We’ll have one of our own leading the charge.”

Chip Blalock, Executive Director for the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, describes Purdue as a “big picture thinker” but also a “plain-spoken advocate,” which he says will help “communicate complex agriculture issues to a variety of audiences.”

After his first meeting with President-elect Trump, Purdue stood in the marbled lobby of Trump Tower wearing a tie with tractors and a backpack and told reporters that “he would be happy to serve from Georgia, where I am very happily living with my wife and 14 grandchildren, or I’d be happy to serve him if he thought I could be helpful to him here in D.C.”



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

State Secretary

Receipt payments from last summer's printing. There were also a good number of Granges who did not submit information for the 2017 State Directory.

Every attempt was made to get up to date information on these Granges but it's difficult (especially in Fairfield County) when a handbook is not available. Waiting for information to be submitted ultimately delays printing and distribution to our members. Please think about returning requests from the Central Office as soon after receipt as possible. We understand that it is necessary at times to wait for information to become available to you.

On the subject of Bonding—our list to National Grange has been submitted with ALL of our Granges listed. This means all Granges that did not respond have been renewed at last year's level. Those Granges should have received a billing from me for their coverage. All other Granges were renewed based on the requests submitted to the Central Office.

I am often asked, "Who is covered by bonding." The misconception is that the Secretary and Treasurer are the only members covered. This is not true. All officers and members of your Grange are covered by the Bonding Insurance.

In the coming weeks I will begin filing the 990-N e-postcards with the IRS. If your 990 was filed by me last year, it will be filed by me this year. I usually don't begin filing until after Feb. 1. It may take longer this year with the changes in the process instituted by the IRS. However, all Granges will receive confirmation from me when the filing is complete so you don't have to wonder if it has been done. If you do your own filing and have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. If I don't have

an answer, I will try to find an answer for you.

I have received requests for assistance from several Granges in the past few weeks regarding EIN numbers and non-profit status. Unless there is a Grange that I am not aware of, all of our Granges are either a 501(c)(5) or 501(c)(8). What's the difference? A 501(c)(5) "provides for the exemption from federal income tax of labor, agricultural, or horticultural organizations." A 501(c)(8) is a "fraternal beneficiary society, order, or association." The State Grange and many of our Subordinates are 501(c)(8) but there are still quite a few that are classified as

501(c)(5). Finding your EIN number is easy—it is listed on the 990N confirmation sheets sent out to you by me each year- it's in the upper right corner of the form. Your 501 status is not so easy. To find out definitively, you should either refer back to a declaration letter sent to your Grange by the IRS many moons ago or you can contact me in the off chance that I have already confirmed this with the IRS for your Grange. Unfortunately, doing this requires a long wait on the phone and I can only request this information for one Grange per phone call. You are welcome to do this on your own by calling the IRS number dealing specifically with non-profit organizations. Do not call the general information

line. Some Granges have gone under the assumption they are 501(c)(3) simply because they are "non-profit." This is incorrect. To my knowledge, most, if not all, of our Granges are NOT 501(c)(3). However, the State Grange Foundation was established to give Granges an avenue tax-deductible giving. Please contact the Central Office or Gordon Gibson (President) if you would like more information about the Foundation and what it can do for your Grange.

Have I lost you yet? My apologies for the long-winded nature of the column this month. It's important information that can't be emphasized enough!

Until next time... stay warm!

Past Master Charles Talcott Davis

Charles Talcott Davis was born on January 12, 1865 in Middletown, Connecticut. He was the son of Talcott Davis.

He received his education in the local schools.

He married Grace Hubbard in Middletown, Connecticut. She was the daughter of Ebin Hubbard and Marietta (Heath) Hubbard.

To them were born the following children: Abbott H. and Harold H. Davis.

By faith he was a Congregationalist and by politics a democrat. He was the President of the Middletown Savings Bank for a number of years; one of the incorporators of the Middlesex County Hospital in Middletown; a member of the Middletown City Planning Commission; Past President of the Middletown Exchange Club.

He filled many Grange offices some of which are as follows: Master of Mattabessett Grange; Master of Central Pomona Grange; Deputy of Central Pomona Grange 1908-1911; Overseer of the Connecticut State Grange 1913-1915. He was the 10th Master



herself setting an excellent example as there was no pleasanter place than the spacious homestead upon the Davis Farm, enhanced by her cheerful welcome and friendly precision.

Brother Davis was a man of firm and steadfast character, although only in the Master's Station for a two-year term, he ably filled that position with dignity and precision.

He personally organized Hemlock Grange on December 7, 1912, under State Master J. Arthur Sherwood.

He passed away on November 5, 1939 and was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery in Middletown not far from the farm he loved.

Just as I thought we had finally turned the corner and all Secretaries were on the "same page" with me on the subject of shipping charges for certificates from National Grange... along comes change! As of March 1, 2017, shipping charges will go up \$1.00 on Golden Sheafs and 75 Year Certificates. Everything else is the same. To order a single Golden Sheaf (for example) it would be \$10.00 for the certificate and \$4.00 for shipping for a grand total of \$14.00. The shipping charge does not increase if there are more than one certificate in the order. For example, an order with three Golden Sheafs would be \$34.00. Checks for these items should be made out to "National Grange" and not the Connecticut State Grange. Payments for seals ordered through the State Grange Central Office should be made out to the "Connecticut State Grange." Checks made out improperly will be returned, thus delaying delivery of your seals/certificates.

I would like to thank all of the Secretaries and Granges who have been so diligent this past year in getting their Quarterly Reports in to me on time. The number of Granges behind in dues payments has dropped considerably to only a few each quarter. However, the same cannot be said about other information/payments. Less than half of our Granges returned their bonding payments by the deadline (Jan. 15). We are still receiving Dues

of the State Grange from 1916-1917, and a member of the State Grange Executive Committee from 1918-1930.

Sister Davis was a great believer that the place for women was in the home,



PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. *Thank You!*

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month
 and should be sent to:
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 P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033
 or
 Todd Gelineau, Editor
 P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
 Granger@CTStateGrange.org


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President/Editor Todd Gelineau
 Vice President
 Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Do you have a new or old Grange cookbook? If so, The National Grange is looking to collect copies of as many editions of Grange Cookbooks as possible. In our new magazine that is premiering next month, we will be highlighting Grange recipes from these cookbooks and are looking for any extra copies of a Grange cookbook you or your Grange have that you would be willing to donate to The National Grange.


If you have a cookbook you are willing to give, let us know at communications@grange.org. Be sure to include the title of the cookbook and the Grange and state that it comes from.

Be sure to spread the word to all the Grangers you know about this Call for Cookbooks.




Central Pomona No. 1

Southington #25
Meriden #29
Higginum #124
Hemlock #182




Since November 30, 1886

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182*Corr: Maureen Sanborn***Mar. 10:** Beware the Ides of March/CWA**Mar. 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.


East Central Pomona No. 3

Stafford #1	Hillstown #87
Granby #5	Ashford #90
Glastonbury #26	Enfield #151
Manchester #31	Echo #180
Vernon #52	Simsbury #197
Coventry #75	



Since September 7, 1887

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3*Corr: Noel Miller*

East Central Pomona will not meet until March 4th so please work on your resolutions, sewing and crafts, and pay your dues so you can receive the 5th Degree Word.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26*Corr: Kathryn Ruff***Feb. 2:** Hearts & Flowers, 7:30 P.M.**Feb. 11:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.**Mar. 2:** Ides of March, 7:30 P.M.**Mar. 11:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

It is a beautiful morning, bright sun and a clear blue sky. But the temperature on my front porch is 24 degrees. Rain is predicted later today, and we can still use it.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. I did have a very nice Christmas and hopefully the new year will be quiet.

As you read this it will be February. Our February meeting is Hearts and Flowers. I am sure the Lecturer, Ann Gilnack has an interesting program planned. I hope everyone will try to attend our card parties as we really need the income. They are Feb. 11th, March 11th, April 8th, May 13th and June

10th. Mark them on your calendar so you will not miss them.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75*Corr: Noel Miller***Feb. 2:** Valentine's Day

Coventry Grange #75 received a \$2,500 donation in memory of Claudia William Miller, as part of their estate by Noel and Marcia Miller. Their commitment to the Grange will always be remembered.

We are being approached by other groups looking to use our hall for future events. We will have to see where it will lead us.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151*Corr: Irene Percoski***Feb. 11:** Are We There Yet?**Mar. 4:** It's Our Birthday

Bring some memories of road trips you took as a child and share them with us.

ECHO GRANGE #180*Corr: Gloria John***Feb. 14:** "Valentines in the Air"**Feb. 28:** Omit

We had our Christmas Party with a Potluck Supper.

We have delivered several items to "From the Heart" and we are still making squares.

Betty Lussier and Pat Maines visited the shut-ins with Christmas gifts.

We are still collecting pennies.

Stafford Grange No. 1



Stafford Grange celebrated the season in December with their annual Christmas Cookie Exchange with carolers from Stafford Middle School in attendance.

Granby to host Community Fun & Fitness Event

Granby Grange Community Fun and Fitness Event

February 10, 2017 and March 10, 2017

to be held at the Grange Hall, 212 N. Granby Road.

Grange Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Followed by a Community Dance

Music by the: Hearts Ease Band

7 - 9 PM Fun for all.

\$8 @ PERSON/ \$15. A COUPLE

Grange Membership ranges from

Age 6 and up..... you are never too

old or young for new quests and

journeys along Life's Pathways.




The Bob Charbonneau Show

Thursdays at 8:00 PM EST
Saturdays at 9:00 PM EST
& Following Tuesdays at
10:00 PM EST


<http://www.GrangeRadio.org>





Mountain County Pomona No. 4

Cawasa #34	Litchfield #107
Whigville #48	Beacon #118
Eureka #62	Riverton #169
Winchester #74	
Taghannuck #100	



Since February 1, 1888

MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 13: Meeting at Eureka Grange, 7:30 P.M.

Mar. 25: Day Meeting, Riverton Grange, 4 P.M., Potluck Supper

The first meeting of Mountain County in the new year will be on Feb. 13 at Eureka Grange Hall. If you don't go out at night, the following meeting will be our Day Meeting at Riverton Grange on Saturday, March 25 beginning at 4:00 P.M. We will also have a potluck supper as part of the afternoon's activities. We would love to see you at one or both of these meetings. Until then, please stay warm!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 14: Love is in the Air, Ref. Ted & Linda Benedict

Feb. 28: Presidential, Ref. Sue Addison

Mar. 14: Everything Green, Ref. Todd Gelineau & Faith Quinlan

We're hoping the Tuesday night weather pattern will change in February and we will be able to hold our meetings as scheduled. It seems every few years we get into one of these patterns that lasts through the winter. Hopefully this is not the case now.

Our members are reminded that dues are now payable to the Secretary if you haven't already done so. If you have, we thank you. Your dues are the lifeblood of the Grange and help keep our Grange and building running. We will also accept your payments of Pomona dues and subscriptions to the Connecticut Granger.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghannuck Grange #100 has given out 72 of "The Best Dictionary for Students" to the third grade students in Sharon, Kent, Cornwall and Warren.

This is the 14th year we have done this as a community service. The best thing is to see how excited the students are when they know they get to keep the dictionaries.

All our members now receive the Connecticut Granger as we voted to do this at our December meeting. We hoped to reach more of our members and have heard from some that no longer attend meetings. We now have reached one of our goals in underwriting this program.

Taghannuck Grange has only one meeting in February on the 9th at 8 P.M. with a snow date of Feb. 23rd. The Graces have the program and it's always very inventive.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Feb. 3: Regular Meeting; Program: Agriculture Committee; Ref.: Theresa, Matt, Amanda & Rachel Freund

Mar. 3: Reg. Meeting; Program: Legislative Committee; Ref.: Bob O'Connor & Moe Gabelmann

We held our regular meeting on Dec. 16. After a short meeting, Lecturer Dawn Anstett arranged games to be played which included our members and guests. After the games, the flute choir from the Gilbert School presented several Christmas carols. Rachel Aiudi, a senior at Gilbert, organized a flute choir when she was a freshman and has been the choir's leader since then. Rachel has been accepted at the University of Rochester, hoping to double major in biology and music. The five girls representing the choir, including Alexas LeMere (Bob O'Connor's granddaughter), are eager to keep the choir in existence when Rachel is no longer with them.


These girls are to be commended for giving their time in providing wonderful music without the services of their band director.

After the musical program, secret snowperson distributed numbers to all and those recipients could pick a gift in numerical order. After all was done, refreshments were served by Gail and Charlie and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Riverton celebrates 109 years


Images from their recent celebration





**New Haven County
Pomona No. 5**

Cheshire #23
Wallingford #35



Since December 4, 1888

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch

Mar. 13: Regular Meeting at 7:30 P.M. at Cheshire Grange; Program: In charge of the CWA Comm./Lecturer

Our Open Meeting on Dec. 4th was followed by the program entitled "Christmas is Around the Corner" was well attended. We exchanged Christmas gifts with "The Right Family" as our theme. We all learned real quickly our Right, from our Left and across that evening. The evening was enjoyed by all in attendance.

We all became "Young at Heart" for our January program conducted by the Lecturer.

Remember, our door is always open, so come on down for a visit and we always have the greatest refreshments.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Feb. 1: Open Meeting, 6:30 Box Supper

Feb. 15: Legislative Program

Our Christmas Craft Show was successful as was our distribution of Christmas favors to our shut-in members and friends. As I write this, the Monday craft nights are underway making items for next Christmas.

We are getting early plans underway for our Cheshire Grange Community Fair in August.

Looking forward to another active year at Cheshire Grange.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

2017 CT State Grange Calendars Available

The 2017 edition (2nd in the series) Grange Hall Calendars produced by the CT State Grange are still available. The year is still young making it a perfect time to get your copy. Like last year, these calendars feature pictures of 12 additional Grange Halls. You will especially want one if you purchased the 2016 calendar!

The calendars are \$13.00 each. Shipping is extra and will be determined by the location of the person ordering. Orders may be placed by emailing the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org. You may also call 860-307-1522. Or you can order by mail to: CT State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT. Checks should be made out to the Connecticut State Grange.

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Feb 9: "Be My Valentine" Program: Jim Lamoureux, Ref: Marcia

Feb 23: "71st Anniversary of Iwo Jima" Program: Jim Ref: Janet

Meetings in December:

December 8: A "Christmas Program" on the Puritan's of New England and specifically those in and around Guilford was presented by Mike McBride of Guilford's Henry Whitfield Museum's 1639 Stone House. The Stone House is the oldest house in Connecticut and the oldest stone house in New England. The Puritans were originally from England and they got the name Puritans because they wanted to create a more "purer" religion and adherence to the Bible. This had started in the 1500's and thus decided to set out to the New World in 1600's to live out their faith and way of life. The Pilgrims were Puritan separatists from the Church of England. They did not celebrate Christmas because there is no mention of it in the Bible. In the 1650's you could be fined a few shillings if you celebrated Christmas in the Puritan Colony. The Puritan concept of Christmas continued into the 1800's. As more immigrants populated New England they brought with them celebrations of Christmas. Christmas cards started appear in the 1840's in England and the 1850's in America. Christmas trees were part of Northern Europeans celebrations appeared in America after the Civil War.

Cheshire craft nights resume



Cheshire Grange held its first Craft Night of 2017 and looked at patterns and ideas. They picked several to do this year and then started by making flowers to use later.

State Lecturer



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

MY FAVORITE PLACE IN CONNECTICUT

By Jean Meehan,
Prospect Grange
3rd Place Winner

My favorite place in Connecticut is the Veteran's Memorial Park in Watertown. The first Sunday of August each year between 60 and 100 members gather to reunite at the annual family reunion. This year will be the 105th year we have gathered for this occasion.

It is located on the top of a hill where it is breezy in the hot summer and has a great view with nature at its best and loads of things for the younger generation to do. The large pavilion protects us from the sun and any rain.

It is quiet and tranquil allowing everyone to catch up on family events like births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Some family members traveled from as far away as California and Florida for this event.

I hope everyone has gotten a good start to 2017. The world is a changing place and we need to take the Grange into the future

if we are to survive. I am amazed at how often I get asked about Lecturers Programs and what they should include. My answer is always it should please the Grange Members. Some like speakers, others like programs with quizzes, music, skits and agriculture included. Keep your members guessing. Do one type of program one meeting and another the next.

This year we are including Ritual Numbers in our requirements. Most Granges are no longer doing degree work and our newer members are not familiar with what us veteran members have always taken for granted. All Lecturers are being supplied with numbers they can use in the Lecturer's Newsletters which comes out six times a year.

All programs should be between 30 and 60 minutes long. A five or ten minute program does not qualify. We need more than a reading or a song for a program. Don't forget the

Lecturers Program is part of the order of business and should not be omitted. As Lecturers we need to make people want to come to our meetings. And, don't forget, your Deputy will once again be asking for your records the night of inspection.

Your Lecturer has a hard job. They need to please all our members. They need to be creative and constantly come up with new ideas. Why not offer to do a number for your Lecturer. She or he would be delighted and a new approach is always appreciated.


Grange Sunday and Let's Celebrate are coming up quickly. Do you have a Talent entry and/or an "A Number" to enter? Every Grange should have an "A Number". You have them every meeting. Check your Blue Book, call your Pomona Lecturer or myself for details. Remember all entries go directly to the State Judging this year.

See You Around the State...


Lyme Juniors

Ted Powell, Lyme Grange

Lyme Grange Juniors have been busy this year making sure three families in the community had food this Thanksgiving (one more family than last year!). The families received a full Thanksgiving meal. The kids were able to get their friends and families to donate items. Their next project was to good used toys for kids in need. They asked kids in their classes to help. They received less toys than last year but still had 98 all new toys to give to children. Through the church, they were able to get the toys out to kids in need. They are now working on the Ag fruit and vegetable contest. Getting people to sign-up to grow food for people in need.



New London County Pomona No. 6

Senexet #40	Killingly #112	
Wolf Den #61	N. Stonington #138	
Colchester #78	Lyme #147	
Ekonk #89	Stonington #168	
Pachaug #96	Norwich #172	
Preston City #110	Groton #213	

Since January 10, 1890

NEW LONDON CTY. POM. #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Mar. 4: Talent Show at Ekonk Comm. Grange, 7:30 P.M.

We are hoping for a lively program on March 4. There must be lots of talent out there in all our Granges just waiting to shine on stage at Ekonk. Remember to check the rules of the contests in the Blue Book. Subordinate Granges within any Pomona may combine forces to enter the A-Number contest. The theme this year is "vacation." See you there.

Winter is upon us, oh woe, oh woe is me!

It's time to shovel, scrape the ice, undecorated the tree.

But March is coming! So is spring! So chin up! Don't feel down.

Just bring your skit or talent and head for Ekonk town.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

By the time you read this, sadly, we will have draped our Charter twice more! Golden Sheaf Granger, Phyllis Thurlow (we draped it for one of her sons' in July-Chuck Thurlow) and Beverly MacDonald. We have lost more Grangers to death this past year than in the 45 that I have been Secretary...very sad for all! Beverly Bonin is doing a fabulous job delivering food to needy families (for our Grange). She delivered 8 at Christmastime and we voted to pay for meat for the baskets she will be delivering regularly to five families with continuing need.

Our hall was filled to capacity for the meal for young Kenny Phaiyah (36) from Oneco, who died too young, leaving a 29 year old widow (Sarah). We were glad to help Sarah in this small way. Our Grange sits as a symbol of service and we open it for anyone with a need... Sarah had a need. Our Grange was a big part of the gift giving to 31

Sterling families and 115 children who otherwise would not have received gifts at Christmas. Humbling when a child asks for socks!

When the sap begins to run this early spring, our Juniors will carpool to New Hampshire to visit a "Sugar Run", which uses horses to collect and transport the sap!

We continue "sprucing up" as we prepare to host the National Officers/State Master's Conference here Feb. 17th-19th. Barbara Bonin reported that new homemade curtains will grace every NEW window before then! We love our new windows-thanks to Link Cooper for installing them!

We have begun rehearsals for the fun program we will bring to Richmond, RI on St. Patrick's Day. Always fun to visit Grange friends!

By this reading one of our youth Grangers, Colin Sebastian, will be on his way to Korea where he will spend a year teaching English in a Korean school. What an awesome adventure. Meanwhile, his sister, Katrina, continues her singing and acting career in New York City and brother, Christopher loves George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Carly and Connor (their younger siblings) -- no telling what the two of you will accomplish! A very impressive and talented Grange family! When these young people are home in Sterling, they attend Grange meetings and functions! Meetings continue the first Mondays of every month at 7:30 p.m.--all are welcome to join the fun! March 11th: Corned Beef and Cabbage supper 5pm!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Feb. 25: Meeting, 2 P.M., Grange Hall

Mar. 25: Revised Schedule

Happy new year. Wow! Who knew? Still having breakfasts 8:30 A.M. - 11 A.M. Meetings on Saturday afternoon 2 P.M., 4th Sat.

until April. Call Master Eleanor Davis or Lecturer Glenna Bruno for more information. Also, 4th Sat. Bluegrass.

The Christmas potluck, gift giving and yankee swap was well attended after a short business meeting and a nativity tableau, with farmer member Gert Blain as Mary, David Griffith as King, Eleanor Davis as Shepherd and Ann Duval as the Angel. Guess we forgot Joseph, or maybe David was both. A Christmas poem and history of Christmas was read by Lecturer. Also a note from our member in Texas, Mikel Fisk, sending us greetings.

Recently, past master Patricia Valys and present master Eleanor Davis along with member Gert Blain, presented a 75 year certificate to Dorothy Smith who is presently residing at Westview Rehab. Center. Dorothy started out as a member of other local Granges... South Killingly being one and ended at Killingly Grange #112. Killingly presently has at least five members who have belonged to the Grange for 50 years or more.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Feb. 10: "When the Cat's Away the Mice will Play"

Feb. 24: Snow Date for Feb. 10

Our Christmas party was a gala affair with eighteen children under the age of 12 and a count of 46 in a hall decked with tinsel. We were pleased to welcome Nancy Strong of the State Grange Education Committee to our hall. Festivities included a "left-right" game that left everyone with a special gift to take home. Santa arrived with a present for each child and apples, candy canes and ornaments for all. A hearty group of carolers braved the cold and sang and delivered fruit baskets to members and friends around town. We also presented gift certificates to Walmart to help needy families have a happier holiday.

The painter is busy and the upstairs hall and the downstairs ceiling will each sport a new coat of paint the next time you visit us. If you find yourself suffering with "cabin fever" please join us on Feb. 10 for our game

night. It should be lots of fun. If the weather is bad we will meet on the 24th. And if that squirrel who has learned how to pull the suet feeder down will just find another yard to play in, next time we'll tell you all about jolly January.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Mar. 2: CWA Kitchen Kings and Queens

Apr. 6: Inspection. What will the Deputy Observe?

May 4: Visitors - Invite your equal.

Our January meeting brought news of our dear longtime secretary Marita Rand has been in ill health and resigning. Marita Rand has been our Sec. For about 35 years.

We had Show & Tell which is a most interesting subject and enjoyed by all.

In December, Lyme Grange donated 36 dozen homemade cookies to Frank Forest and Christmas cards

signed by our members, all packed and sent to troops.

We had a pleasant surprise, a young couple walked into our hall and announced "We want to join your Grange - we are farmers." How wonderful!!

In February we must find a new Secretary, not an easy thing to do. Then to get them installed so they can take over.

How lucky can you get? The sun arrived after our meeting. Hope the rest of the year will be kind to us.

Such a pleasant surprise. Everyone who received a certificate in Dec. for their years of Grange membership received a beautiful picture of themselves with our State Master. Our Lecturer received a beautiful book of the whole event. Such a special person, Norman Stitham. We all thank you.



The Importance of Sharing Responsibility

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Is it always the same person who sets up the hall before a meeting, and then mows the lawn and cleans the kitchen and the bathrooms? Then - is it that same person who writes the press release, makes the posters, and publicizes your Grange events? Many Granges find that oftentimes it is the same person handling all the tasks at hand.

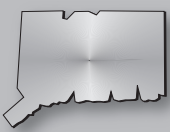
Sharing responsibility is important. Do your Grange leaders share the responsibility or do they just take care of everything themselves? "If I want it done, it's easier to do it myself." Many times members will not automatically step up and volunteer to take on a task unless they are specifically asked to do so for fear of stepping on toes or hurting others feelings. This is where delegation and sharing of the tasks at hand come into play.

The first step is to know which tasks are yours to handle, and which tasks others can take on and achieve success with. Match the skills then present the task as an opportunity, not as an assignment. Never undermine, or underestimate, your membership. Develop ways to share the workload so that your Grange can reach its potential and grow its membership.

In order for sharing responsibilities to be successful, there are a few steps that apply to all situations.


- 1.) Define the tasks
- 2.) Select the person/team pertinent for each task
- 3.) Assess ability, responsibility and capability
- 4.) Clearly state the expected results
- 5.) Discuss all guidelines and deadlines
- 6.) Answer questions from members as they arise
- 7.) Positively recognize and reward the efforts

No matter what stage of growth your Grange is at, one person doesn't have to wear all the hats and perform all the tasks. Sharing responsibilities saves time, gains experience, encourages teamwork, saves money, develops leaders, motivates members, and may even groom a successor! Most important - sharing responsibilities prevents member burnout.



Excelsior Pomona No. 7

Beacon Valley #103	Bridgewater #153
Bethlehem #121	Wolcott #173
Prospect #144	Oxford #194



Since October 22, 1891

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

In November everyone shared their worst vacation and their best vacation. Our January meeting we collected canned soup and drew names as to which Food Pantry these cans would be delivered too. This time of the year many Food Pantries are looking to restock their shelves. We as a Pomona representing several towns thought we could help. We would like to thank all members that brought cans of soup.

Our program was Soupy Sales. we all learned a lot about soup through a Game Pick a Can of Soup.

March meeting will be our A Number and Talent Contest. This will be at Bethlehem Grange. We are hoping each of our granges in our Pomona will have a number and talent.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Feb. 12: (Sun.) Meeting, 2 P.M., Ref. Fred & Sharon Fairchild

It's not too early to start thinking about our April 1 Flea Market.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

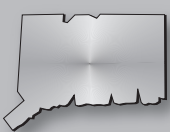
Corr: Jean Meehan

I would like to thank all our members for their soup donations that were collected and donated to our local food pantry. Also for the food items and gifts for the complete Thanksgiving meals and Christmas meals for the elderly community members that have no family. We were able to put smiles on their faces and a little excitement on Christmas by getting gifts again. We will try again for Easter.

Our pots of mums went over very well that were given to our elderly Grange members in the fall.


Tray favors and craft projects are being donated to the residents at the Regal Care Rehab in Prospect and tray favors to those at the Cheshire House.

Our Christmas Party was enjoyed by 14 members and our January meeting "Which Star are you?" was a lot of fun. February's meeting will be put on by the Youth. "Find the Right Key" sounds interesting and in March we are Going Green..



Fairfield County Pomona No. 9

Redding #15	Norfield #146
Harmony #92	Cannon #152
Greenfield Hill #133	



Since February 20, 1895

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Mar. 8: (Weds.) Harmony Grange Hosts, 6:00 P.M. Supper, Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Robert Sendewicz

Feb. 13: (Mon.), Game Night, Supper at 6 P.M., Country Store

Feb. 27: (Mon.), Membership, Cindy & Ray Legg

Greenfield Hill Grange #133

1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield

VALENTINE'S DINNER

FUNDRAISER

Saturday FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Snow date: February 12, 2017



6:00pm

(doors open @5:30)

**MENU:**

**Stuffed Boneless Breast of
Chicken. Rice Pilaf
Vegetable, Tossed Salad
Dessert
Soda Bar, BYOB**

Ticket Reservations:

Call: Jim or Steve
203-259-8023
203-367-4373

No Tickets sold at the Door

**Ticket Donation \$20.00
Children under 12 - \$10.00**



50/50 raffle

**Hillstown
Chili**

Hillstown Grange is sponsoring a Chili Cook off on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at the Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, Connecticut. Entries must be received between 10:30 am and 11:30 am, with an accompanying \$5 entry fee, to be eligible for the cash prize for first place in three categories: Judge's Choice, Hottest, and Tasters' Favorite. Doors open to the public at noon and lunch will run until 2:00 pm. Taste tickets are 3 for \$5 or All You Can Eat for \$10. Coffee and cornbread included. Join in the fun! Enjoy a great lunch and vote for your favorite! To preregister or for more information, contact Jill at jill_upton@yahoo.com *Snow date is Sunday, February 26, 2017.

The Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT.

**CAMP
BERGER****ADVENTURE - FUN
FRIENDSHIP - DISCOVERY**

Celebrating our 62nd Year
Camp Berger is a Co-Educational
Overnight Camp for Ages 8-14
Seven Weekly Sessions:

June 25-July 1, July 2-8

July 9-15, July 16-22

July 23-29, July 30-Aug 5

Aug 6-12

Camp Tuition \$400 Per Week

CIT Program for Ages 15-17

PROGRAMS:

Weekly Themes, Forest Golf, Pickle-Ball, Archery, Frisbee Golf, Sailing Canoeing, Arts & Crafts, Rocketry Fishing, Orienteering, Geo Caching Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball Theatre, Rafting, Color Wars, Ping Pong Yoga, Badminton, Ga-ga Ball, 4-Square Hiking, Dodgeball, Rowing and More

Located on Scenic Park Pond in
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Berger is large enough to ensure a fun filled
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feel free to call or email with any questions.

Lyn & Chris Kimberly Directors

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Weston, CT 06883

CampBerger@gmail.com

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Summer Address:

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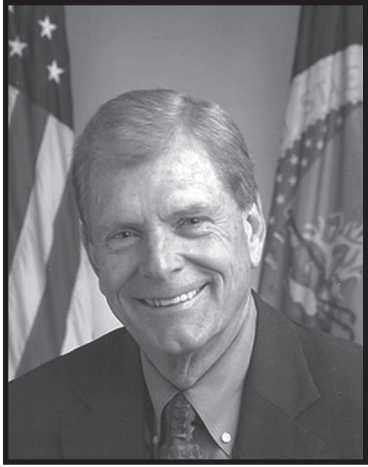
134 Wahnee Road

P.O. Box 181

Winchester Center, CT 06094

860-238-7949

www.CampBerger.com



Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director

A DIFFERENT WASHINGTON

The National Grange headquarters building has a panoramic view of the White House viewing stands for the upcoming Inaugural Parade. The 115th Congress has already convened on Capitol Hill. A new President and Administration will officially take over the Executive Branch of the United States Government in Washington on Inauguration Day, January 20. For the first time since the 1928, all three elective branches of the federal government, the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives are controlled by the Republican Party. This is both good and bad. The three points of government may be able to “get things done” despite political haggling between parties that has stymied the legislative process in recent years. Procedural pipelines for legislation should be open and fast for numerous bills to move through Congress to the White House and become law. That’s a good thing. However, all legislation is not good legislation. Just because there are enough votes on the Hill to pass a bill and the will at the White House to sign it doesn’t automatically mean the resulting law is good for the country. Missing from one-party control of the Senate, House and the White House is a system of checks and balances.

In addition to cabinet-level appointments, the new Trump Administration will fill thousands of political appointee positions in the departments and agencies of government. Some will be presidential appointments that require Senate confirmation. However, most of these appointments will be made at the cabinet officer and agency head level.

National Grange Legislative Update

Traditionally, those first in line for an appointment are early supporters and campaign foot soldiers of the President-Elect.

GRANGE AT THE TABLE

Legislative Director Burton Eller represented the National Grange at an invitation-only listening session by President-Elect Trump’s Agriculture Transition Team recently. Eller’s presentation summarized Grange policy and priorities on farm policy, land and water issues, conservation, ag labor, death tax, crumbling infrastructure, access to affordable health care, rural broadband/connectivity, and more.

ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2017

Food and Agriculture

Low prices in farm and ranch country is the elephant-in-the-room topic of almost every conversation about agriculture. There are no quick fixes to low prices. Some low prices are caused by oversupply, some are suffering from lower demand and a few are tied up in international market disputes. Consensus in Washington cautions against opening the current Farm Bill for minor adjustments because once the current law is opened it’s fair game for everything. Market stagnation could, however, spur lawmakers to begin work on the 2018 Farm Bill sooner than later. Preliminary Farm Bill hearings could begin in the House and Senate Agriculture Committees as early as this spring and summer. Sound Farm Bill policy is a high priority for the National Grange.

Regulatory Rollback

President-Elect Trump has created a new position in the White House to serve as Special Advisor on Regulatory Issues which will oversee the administration’s regulatory reform efforts. The stated mission will be to cut through red tape, break free of excessive regulation and establish regulatory reform. Other countries like Great Britain, Canada and Australia already have rollback procedures in place based on compliance costs, streamlining regulations and the requirement that for every rule issued three

existing rules must be eliminated.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) is at the top of the rollback wish list for producers and landowners. WOTUS essentially expands EPA and Corps of Engineers jurisdiction to all land and water no matter where they are located. WOTUS is tied up in litigation filed by more than half the states and numerous trade associations. One legal option would be for the Corps and EPA to ask the court to hold the matter in abeyance until the Trump administration decides what course to take. Then, once agency the agency people are in place, the decision could be made to reconsider the rule.

The Clean Power Plan (CPP), which is designed to reduce carbon pollution from power plants, has been stayed by the Supreme Court. But unlike the WOTUS rule, the CPP rule has been partially implemented by the electricity sector. Repealing the CPP can’t be accomplished through executive order; the administration would have to go through a whole new rulemaking.

Health Care

What to do with the Affordable Care Act/ObamaCare? Opinions run the gambit. Some lawmakers want outright repeal, some advocate repeal then replace, a growing number support simultaneous repeal and replace while others suggest tinkering with the existing framework. Vice President-Elect Pence has indicated Trump plans to take executive actions day one to start unwinding ACA. “It will be an orderly transition to something better... using executive authority to insure it’s an orderly transition,” according to Pence. There is indication these actions could occur simultaneously as Congress debates alternatives to and replacements for ObamaCare.

Broad public concern centers around the fear that ObamaCare might be repealed without a viable replacement thereby reducing or eliminating completely people’s options for health coverage. Republican leadership in both the House and Senate appear to be working on legislation that will repeal,

replace and transition the Affordable Care Act to an alternative. But how to replace the Act without a costly government takeover while maintaining coverage for millions of Americans and keeping popular pieces of the law is still to be determined. House and Senate Democratic leadership have signaled some willingness to ultimately work on a replacement once Republicans come up with a plan. Of course the elephant-in-the-room debate will ultimately be who pays and how much? One thing seems certain; the ObamaCare debate will start early and dominate much of the 2017 legislative calendar. Access to dependable and affordable health care is a high priority issue for the National Grange.

Immigration

Agriculture needs labor. That’s a fact. Even in high unemployment areas, local workers are not willing to hire out to agriculture. How to get skilled as well as unskilled labor in a dependable, legal and sustainable way is another elephant-in-the-room problem. Complicating the worker issue is President-Elect Trump’s campaign rhetoric about immigration reform. Growers say the ag labor green card program discontinued decades ago actually did work. The Department of Labor’s current H-2A program is a regulatory nightmare that allows crops to rot in the field while waiting on legal labor to arrive. Resolving agriculture’s labor dilemma will continue to be a long and contentious debate. Politics of so-called sanctuary cities for undocumented immigrants further complicate any quick fix. Sanctuary locales (such as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia) block local law enforcement officials from asking about immigration status during routine citizen interaction or traffic stops. Sanctuary officials refuse to coordinate with federal immigration officials or comply with federal immigration laws. Ag labor and immigration reform is a high priority issue for the National Grange.

Telecommunications

Slow but methodical progress continues toward

achieving dependable high speed wired and wireless connectivity into rural and underserved areas. The federal Lifeline program which provides low-cost phone service to remote, disabled and underserved residents is in danger of being phased out. Connectivity is essential to survivability for agriculture, rural and small town citizens and businesses. Broadband expansion and related telecommunications issues are a high priority for the National Grange.

Taxes

Comprehensive federal tax reform has been cussed and discussed for several years without much agreement in Congress or the White House. The big word here is comprehensive which means to take a big look at the whole tax code, not just pieces and parts. Reforming one area of the code but not another suggests favoring one group over others. Tax reform is sorely needed; it’s been a long time since we had a real one. Foreign business tax, corporate tax rates, individual tax rates, the death tax, business deductions, individual deductions, capital gains rate, depreciation and a multitude more need to be on the operating table. Tax reform in the 115th Congress could burst out of the starting gate but fizzle on the backstretch depending on the will in Congress and the White House. Estate tax/death tax repeal is a high priority for the National Grange.

TAKEAWAYS

“The greatest gift of life is friendship and I have received it.”

~Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey

“A friend is a gift you give yourself.”

~Robert Louis Stevenson

“Forgiveness is a gift of high value. Yet its cost is nothing.”

~Betty Smith

“You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.”

~Desmond Tutu

“What you are is God’s gift to you; what you become is your gift to God.”

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

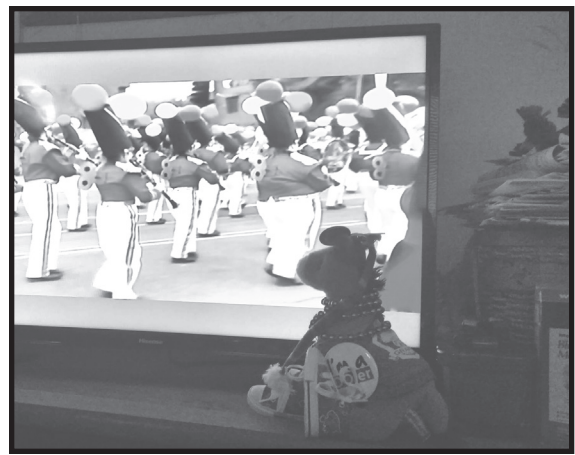


By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

Noel, Marcia and I attended Excelsior Pomona in January. It was great to see all our Grange friends. But due to the cold and nasty winter weather, we haven't been out and about much. Let's hope that changes for February as I hope to see you as we travel around the state and beyond!

Want to keep up on my adventures? Be sure to follow me on Facebook. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



USDA Financial Assistance

Connecticut farmers applying for financial assistance from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on projects related to animal agriculture or waste storage have the option to invite the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension System, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, or other entities to their farm for additional consulting and ideas. The following list describes possible benefits to the farmer by hosting a combined visit- NRCS and other cooperating agencies may share information they have obtained separately.

NRCS (or TSP) can provide ...

- Recommendations on farm headquarters related to animal containment and manure storage systems
- Recommendations on farm fields related to soil nutrient management, erosion, and environmental risk potential for nutrient loss
- A farm plan describing the assessment and recommendations for the farm headquarters and fields as related to animal agriculture – referred to as a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- The farm plan is formatted to meet federal and state regulations related to Animal Confinement Operations and waste discharge to state surface and ground waters.

DEEP can provide...

- State approval for waste discharges to surface or ground waters from infrastructure related to waste containment or land application from farms with a site review and a plan, as described in State Regulation 22a-430 (CT Water Pollution Control Act)
- State approval for animal farms with waste discharges to surface water as described in Federal Regulation for the Clean Water Act, and in the 2008 CAFO Rule for Confined Animal Feeding Operations
- Consultation on existing state or federal regulations related to a variety of farm types and farm wastes
- Additional networking for potential funding pools (state and federal) as they become available

UConn (or other designated agencies) can provide...

- Consulting and guidance related to existing and new technologies for animal management and crop production
- Consulting on animal production, feed, nutrition, forages, and weeds
- Mapping services may be available depending on availability and resources
- Data processing using GIS/GPS tools related to crop production (soils/yields), nutrient management, and manure management may be available depending on availability of resources

Preserved farmland easement holder

- The easement holder may need to be involved in the planning of structures or the installation of impervious surfaces to ensure compliance with terms of the easement

An Information Release Request must be completed to indicate what, if any, information you want shared with cooperating agencies. You do not have to share any information. The farm will be responsible for obtaining any approvals or permits related to the animal farm projects.

If you would like to receive a copy of this bulletin and the accompanying release form, please contact us at the Connecticut Granger: Granger@CTStateGrange.org

NATIONAL GRANGE

 Legislative
 FLY-IN

April 23 - 26, 2017 • Washington, D.C.

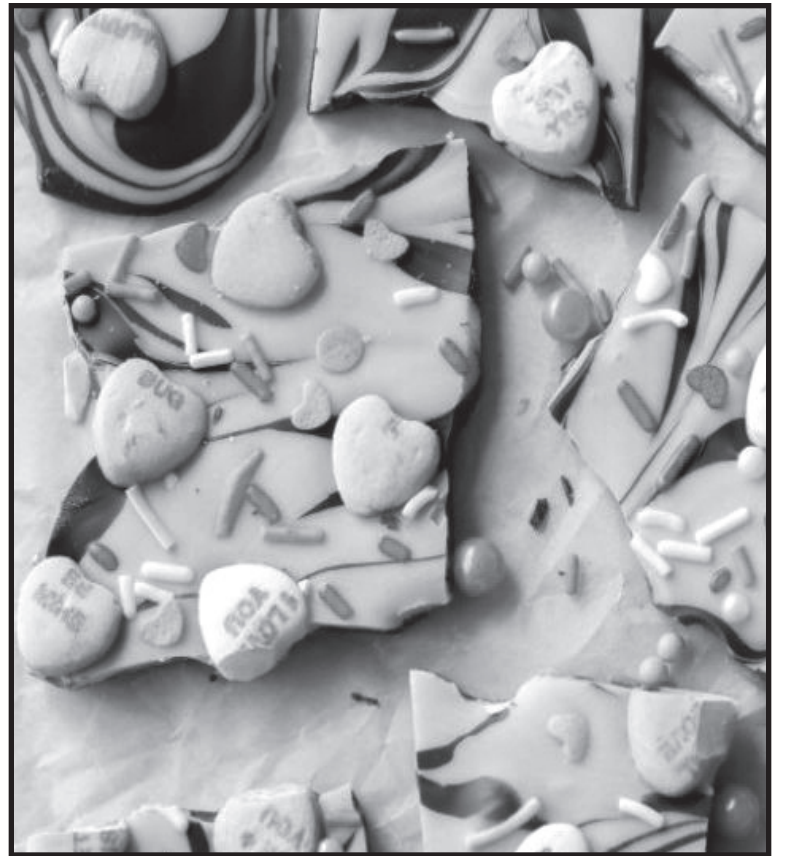
WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.

This Month



There were no responses to January's Window Picture.



Easy Valentine's Day Candy Bark

Love is in the air with this fun Valentine's Day candy recipe from Delish. This recipe is quick and easy - and perfect for February Grange meetings, refreshments, and potlucks.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 oz. white chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 2 oz. pink candy melts
- 1/4 tsp. canola or vegetable oil
- 8 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
- Conversation heart candies and sprinkles for decorating

DIRECTIONS:

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside. With a double boiler or microwave, melt white chocolate and candy melts together. If using a microwave, stir chocolate every 20 seconds. Once melted and smooth, stir in oil. Set aside. Melt semi-sweet chocolate the same way you melted white chocolate. Pour onto prepared baking sheet and spread out into a large rectangle using a spoon or rubber spatula. Drizzle white chocolate mixture on top. Use a knife or toothpick to swirl layers together. Sprinkle top of bark with conversation hearts and sprinkles.

Allow chocolate to set at room temperature in a cool, dry environment. If needed, you can refrigerate to speed up the cool down process. Once hardened, break into pieces as large or as small as you want.

SOURCE: <http://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a45765/candy-heart-bark-recipe/>



Deadline for the Next Issue is February 15!

Happy Valentine's Day

Woodrow Tucker passes

Woodrow W. Tucker
National Grange
High Priest of Demeter
Emeritus

(June 26, 1925 – Jan. 26, 2017)

Woodrow W. Tucker, 91 of Wakefield, RI, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 26, 2017. He was the husband of Marjorie (Jones) Tucker for 67 years. Born in South Kingstown, a son of the late Percy H. and Annie R. (Tefft) Tucker.

Mr. Tucker was an attorney and co-owner and president of South County Title Real Estate Title Insurance Co. for many years before retiring in 1992.

He received his education at South Kingstown High School and Northeastern University School of Law, and was admitted to the bar in 1950. He served South Kingstown in many capacities – the 1st Probate Judge, Town Moderator and Union Fire District Solicitor. An attorney for 50 years, he was President of Washington County Bar Association, Pettaquamscutt Credit Union, Patrons Fire Insurance Company, and Phi Gamma Pi Fraternity. A Board member for RI State Grange Credit Union and Farmers and Traders Life Insurance, he also served on the Executive Committee of RI Bar Association. He was a Paul Harris Fellow of Wakefield Rotary Club and held many leadership positions in the Grange across local, county, state and national settings, including



Woodrow W. Tucker



Woody with Past S.M. Duane Wetmore



Woody with past State Master Donald Peck at Litchfield Grange for the presentation of Don's 75 year membership certificate.

as National Ritualistic Officer (High Priest of Demeter). He loved South County – its natural beauty, agriculture, sea shore – and traveled internationally in retirement.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Keith B. Tucker of Exeter; four daughters, Pamela L. Sawin and her husband Craig of Foxborough, MA, Kimberly J. Smith and her husband John of Chepachet,

Christine D. Tucker and her husband Brian McDonnell of Coventry and Suzanne E. Tucker of Hope Valley and six grandchildren, Jennifer Witham, Christopher Sawin, Christina and Meghan Smith, Hannah and Sarah McDonnell.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of RI, 245 Waterman St. #306, Providence, RI 02906.

Ekonk Comm. Jr. #101



Four Juniors earned badges for putting together this Bulletin Board at the Grange: Jared Gervais, Lillian Sharpe, Brianna Gervais and Russell Sharpe.

In Memoriam

Phyllis Thurlow, G.S.
Ekonk Comm. Grange #89

Beverly MacDonald
Ekonk Comm. Grange #89

Ted Coley
Norfield Grange #146

Ron Purinton, G.S.
Lyme Grange #147

**Brother Purinton was incorrectly listed as a member of a different Grange in the last issue. Our apologies.*

Please keep us notified of deceased members.
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

State Chaplain

Overcoming difficulties

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain



I have a long-time friend who died last December after a relatively short illness. She was born totally blind, but throughout her life learned many ways to cope with and overcome her disability. In fact, she went to work for the State of Connecticut as a teacher of the blind, teaching other blind people how to cook,

how to sew, how to handle money, how to shop, and how to do housekeeping. She even, as a challenge, learned how to drive, with someone else providing the seeing part of the challenge. Of course she would never be allowed to have a license, but she liked to push the limits of what she could do.

Alice loved to sing, and had a very good soprano voice. She was a member of our church choir for as long as I can remember. Being blind while being a member of a choir presented difficulties, but Alice overcame them. Staying acutely aware of the voices around her allowed her to “see” the choir director she could not see with her eyes. She printed out the music in Braille, using a device which included an optical scanner.

Alice had a strong desire to serve others in whatever way she could. She discovered that she had a gift for what some might call “faith healing”. By meeting with and praying with those who had mental or physical illnesses she was able to help them along a path to recovery. Far be it from me to question why or how that works, but it really seemed to help. Just being around her seemed to be good for people. She was a dedicated and core member of our Church's prayer team.

In all these ways Alice was giving back to all those who had helped her over the years. And I am sure that now in Heaven she will have her sight at last, for Jesus tells us “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

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